

From: Ruben Odom jr
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 9:23pm
Subject: Anti Trust

I know that Microsoft is the most popular and trusted software developer in the world.

This is because they make it easy for every person to get involved in the computer efficiency movement.

There was no way for the computer giant to actually close out other companies from the computer industry. When the DOJ made them (and all other software developer's) from exclusive contracts, that made the way for other software makers (like RedHat) to actually make there way into the door with its free software.

The interest of the Free Software Movement's head way onto the desk top through the loss of exclusive contracts may make it more visible, but still wont be able to "level the playing field" for the computer hobbyist. They will have to be able to differentiate themselves with ease, simplicity, and power that any corporate software make does in order to over through the software giant.

The Free Software foundation is not one David's smooth stones that can topple Goliath (Microsoft). It can only be done with the stones of public trust, longevity, and simplicity. I truly don't think that free stuff will ever win enough granite make these stones because there is no warranty. There is also a shortage of IT people that can service the masses and therefore, fall behind the capabilities of the American business model.

The hole of the Free Software Movement talks a bold game in saying that they want to place there already free software in the schools, but don't have the necessary resources to capture and keep the natural curiosity of a child--let alone a poor one that wants the pride of being like the Jones. If the poor schools don't take the free resources, then a rich school will and there will continue to be a wider gape between the rich and poor.

I feel that Linux should stay something for the hobbyist and computer professionals because the common, still weary user will loose interest quickly. Trust me, Free Software lacks any creativity what so ever and will always be a cheap substitute because of it.

Me on the other hand--a tech nut, know and value Free Linux. However, I realize the limitations and see that other software makers need to get off of there a**es and come up with an operating system that supports all of the modern technology.

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